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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the exposed purine base is found within comprises a structural form selected from the group consisting of single stranded region of nucleic acid, hairpins, loops and nucleic acid having modifications to the phosphate backbone.
3. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the technique comprises metal affinity.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the captured nucleic acid product comprises single-strandedness.
5. (Currently Amended) A scalable process for the highly selective, high yield separation of a desired recombinant polymerase from undesired nucleic acid, comprising:
 - exposing purine bases present within either the desired nucleic acid product or undesired nucleic acid by a process selected from the group consisting of selective thermal denaturation and renaturation, alkaline denaturation, and restriction enzyme digestion yielding single-stranded overhangs;
 - capture of the desired recombinant polymerase nucleic acid product or undesired nucleic acid by a technique selective for the exposed purine bases single-strandness; and
 - separation of the desired recombinant polymerase product from the undesired nucleic acid, wherein the desired product comprises recombinant polymerase.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the process comprises exposed purine bases of single stranded undesired (or desired) nucleic acids facilitate a separation step selected from the group consisting of immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC).

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 comprising introducing single strandedness in the undesired nucleic acid as an exposed purine base.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 comprising a thermally based process in which a nucleic acid contaminant is rapidly cooled to below 65°C and is captured by an affinity method.

9. [Previously Presented] A process according to Claim 5 performed after an alkali based process in which genomic DNA or other nucleic acid contaminant is rapidly neutralized and is captured by an affinity method.

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10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein undesired ether plasmid isoforms selected from the group consisting of open circular ("nicked") and linear plasmid isoforms are selectively removed from the desired supercoiled plasmid DNA product.

12. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 9 wherein undesired plasmid isoforms selected from the group consisting of open circular and

linear plasmid isoforms are selectively removed from ~~supercoiled plasmid DNA product.~~

13. [Cancelled]

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation is achieved by adsorption on chelated metal.

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation is achieved using multi-channel plates.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 + wherein the desired product comprises Taq polymerase.

17. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation is achieved using magnetic particles.

18. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation of multiple samples is achieved in parallel fashion.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises a moiety selected from BACs, PACs and YACs.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises a plasmid.

21. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises genomic DNA.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises RNA.

23. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the capture technique comprises HIC.

24. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the capture technique comprises RPC.

25. Cancelled